

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 IGA-02 EB-11 L-03

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R 311200 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6251

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 0560

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJ: DETERIORATION OF SUBSISTENCE BASE IN ARID ZONES

REF: STATE 11869 AND OUAGADOUGOU 286

JOINT STATE/ AID ACTION

BRUSSELS FOR MARTIN; PARIS FOR RAICHT; ROME FOR FODAG

1. AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM SIX DROUGHT- STRICKEN AFRICAN NATIONS HELD TWO IMPORTANT MEETINGS IN OUAGADOUGOU MARCH 23-27. REPRESENTATIVES FROM MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, SENEGAL, CHAD AND UPPER VOLTA MET MARCH 23-25 TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS FOR JOINT FIGHT AGAINST PERSISTENT DROUGHT AND DETERIORATION OF SAHELIAN REGION. MINISTERS OF THESE COUNTRIES, EXCEPT CHAD, MET MARCH 26-27 TO REVIEW THESE PROPOSALS AND ADOPTED FIVE RESOLUTIONS:

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A. CHIEFS OF STATES OF NATIONS INVOLVED WILL JOINTLY
DECLARE THEIR TERRITORIES BETWEEN 13 TH AND 20 TH PARALLELS
TO BE DISASTER REGION AND WILL SEEK URGENT BILATERAL AND
MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

B. THE NATIONS WILL COMBINE THEIR EFFORTS TO COMBAT THIS
CALAMITY, BASED ON FULL STUDY OF PROBLEM AND POSSIBLE
REMEDIES. VOLTAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER DAKOURE TO SEEK
DONOR FINANCING FOR STUDY.

C. PERMANENT INTER- STATE COMMITTEE WILL BE ESTABLISHED
TO COORDINATE ANTI- DROUGHT PROGRAMS WITH UPPER VOLTA TO
TAKE THE LEAD.

D. TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, PARTICIPANTS WILL
COMBINE OR COORDINATE USE OF THEIR RESOURCES IN AGRICULTURAL,
HYDROLOGICAL, AGRONOMIC, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING FIELDS.

E. CONCENTRATED STUDY WILL BE MADE OF RAIN DEFICIENCY,
DROUGHT CYCLE AND POSSIBILITIES OF USING ARTIFICIAL
RAINMAKING.

COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR EFFORT BY SAHELIAN STATES
TO CONCERT ACTION TO SEEK JOINTLY LONG- TERM SOLUTIONS
TO COMMON DROUGHT AND DESERTIZATION PROBLEM. SUCH
COORDINATION EFFORT OF COURSE VERY RELEVANT TO MODALITIES
OF SUPPORT EFFORT TO BE PROVIDED BY USAID AND OTHER DONORS,
E. G. AS FOLLOW- ONTO STUDY DISCUSSED IN REFTELS. BELIEVE
NOW IS TIME TO LOOK SERIOUSLY INTO WHAT WE CAN DO.
BULLEN

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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